

Alpine County

snapshot

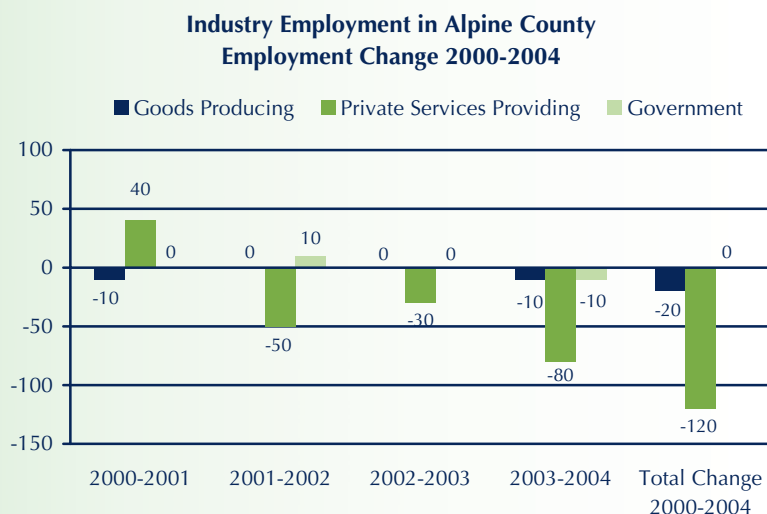
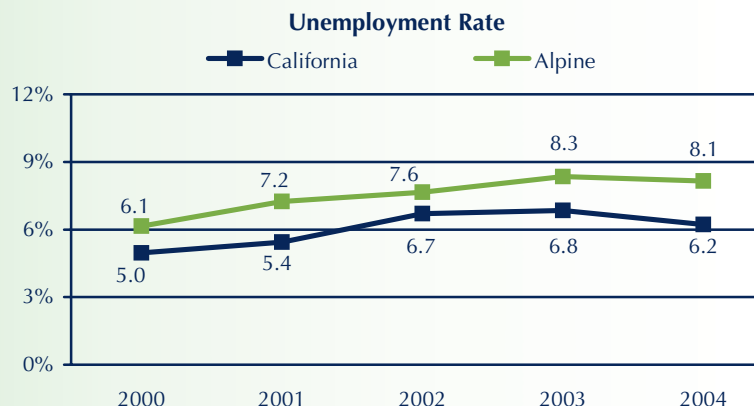
Alpine County lies along the crest of the central Sierra Nevada, south of Lake Tahoe and north of Yosemite. Its name truly describes the area, since snow-covered peaks, high alpine meadows and forests are the main geographic features. Encompassing 727 square miles, Alpine is the eighth-smallest county in area and boasts the smallest population of all counties in California (just shy of 1,300 residents in 2005).¹ Most of the population is concentrated around a few mountain communities: Markleeville, Woodfords, Bear Valley and Kirkwood. Residents enjoy a rural lifestyle, with the convenience of access to cities in neighboring counties.

Labor Force

Alpine County's labor force numbered approximately 530 persons in 2004, down from 550 in 2000. The unemployment rate in the county has increased during the same period by a cumulative 2.0 percentage points. However, in 2004, the unemployment rate was down from 8.3 percent in 2003 to 8.1 percent.²

Industry Employment

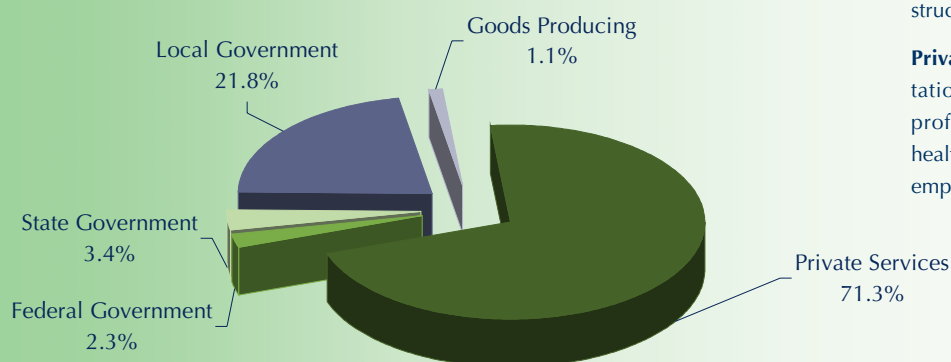
Due to Alpine's relatively small population, industry employment data is only available for larger sectors, such as goods producing and service providing (see industry breakouts in the pie chart below). Total industry employment dropped to 870 in 2004, down 80 from 2003 (-8.4 percent). During the period 2000-2004, Alpine industry employment declined in every listed component except local government. Employment in local government increased by 20 jobs, from 170 in 2000 to 190 in 2004. In addition to the county's extensive national and state park acreage, tourism and related recreational industries remain significant contributors to Alpine's economy.



¹California Department of Finance, Demographic Statistics.

²Employment Development Department. All labor statistics reflect Benchmark 2004 data.

Alpine County Employment by Industry 2004 Annual Average



2004 Industry Employment total: 870

Goods producing employment includes: mining, construction, and manufacturing employment.

Private services employment includes: trade, transportation, and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and other services employment.